

One of the most important evenings at camp is College and Career Night. Students got the opportunity to interact with college recruiters and state and federal agency representatives regarding course studies, scholarships, and job and training opportunities. Later in the week students were taken on a tour of the University of West Alabama.

From Sawmills to Indians

If the students wanted to learn how pine trees are converted into timber products, they had that opportunity when they toured Gulf States Sawmill. Gulf States Wood Products Division illustrated how logs are debarked, measured, cut, sorted, stacked and stored using the latest and most sophisticated technology. With the assistance of a tour guide, they had the opportunity to see the sawmill in action from beginning to end.

To understand forestry practices from the Native Americans' perspective, campers visited Moundville Archeological Park to learn forest history. Dorie Stinnett from the U.S. Forest Service gave a presentation describing the physical makeup of American forests and explaining Americans' attitude about them, beginning with the pre-Columbus years and ending with today.

Students also participated in other training sessions during the week including: compass and map reading, hunting and gun safety, and land and wildlife management.

Special guests visited the camp to inform students about important issues such as career opportunities and personal goals. Sumter County Commissioner Chris Spencer and Epes Police Chief Darren Blakely gave motivational speeches to encourage campers to follow their dreams and accomplish their goals.

The Final Day


How can the Alabama Forestry Camp end without having a TREASURE Forest day? During this session, the students visited a TREASURE Forest to experience the importance of land stewardship. Smith & Sons TREASURE Forest in Greene



Fishing is a favorite with everyone.

County, told how they practiced good stewardship of the land by diversifying their management objectives to include timber, wildlife and catfish ponds.

The graduation ceremony, held in the auditorium at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, acknowledged the students' completion of camp. Each student received a certificate and a photograph taken with guest speaker, James Gooder of the U. S. Forest Service.

Alabama Forestry Camp is free to anyone who qualifies to attend. They must be an Alabama high school student from the age of 15 to 18, who have completed their freshman year but have not graduated from high school. If you know someone interested in attending Alabama Forestry Camp, have him or her call any county office of the Alabama Forestry Commission for more information. 

Memorial

Mrs. Ruby G. Story of Cullman died Thursday, August 16 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was 88. Her family property was certified as TREASURE Forest # 1,184 in 1996. She was managing her 612 acres for timber and wildlife.

Mrs. Story dedicated her life to being a homemaker. Two sons, Bobby M. Story of Orange Beach and Ricky Story of Cullman; two daughters, Betty S. White and Sandra S. Wright both of Cullman; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren survive her.